

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 are present in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyachi et al (US 2003016390) in view of Uchiyama et al (US 6638582).

Claims 3, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyachi et al (US 2003016390) in view of Uchiyama et al (US 6638582) in view of Ishii (US 5134507).

Claims 4-6, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyachi et al (US 2003016390) in view of Uchiyama et al (US 6638582) in view of Uchiyama (US 6800697).

Applicant respectfully traverses.

On review of the Miyachi document and the rejection, applicant notes that there are distinguishing features of claimed invention relative to Miyachi et al. Miyachi shows (considering FIG. 1 of that document) a positive film 14 and a negative film 15. But, the two films are not laminated relative to each other to form a laminated retardation layer, but instead have the liquid crystal cell 11 therebetween, so what Miyachi is teaching is a LCD device with a positive film on one face and a negative film on the other face.

In contrast, the claims in the present application relate to that the positive and negative plates would not have the liquid crystal layer between the two plates, and would produce a retardation layer with these properties. The Miyachi device is not a retardation layer.

The Examiner adds Uchiyama et al (U.S. 663582) to show stretched polycarbonate polymer films with fluorine skeletons to provide inverse chromatic dispersion.

The combination proposed by the Examiner does not teach or suggest (discussed in applicant's specification at page 8, lines 11-16) a liquid crystal display wherein the positive plate is positioned on a sheet polarizer side and the negative plate is positioned on the LC cell side. Claim 1 is amended herein to clarify distinctions with the prior art.

The "laminated retardation layer" can be inserted into two positions, between only one of the upper and lower liquid crystal cells and the sheet polarizer as well as between the upper liquid crystal cell and the sheet polarizer and the lower liquid crystal cell and the sheet polarizer.

In the prior art, there is no teaching or suggestion of any VA type liquid crystal display device in which, while the A plate having inverse chromatic dispersion and the negative C plate having normal chromatic dispersion are laminated and integrated together (with no interposition of a liquid crystal cell between the pair of the A plate and the negative C plate that forms a

lamination pair), they are located between the liquid crystal cell and the sheet polarizer.

Further, between Uchiyama (USP6638582) and the present invention, there are included the following differences:

Referring to the "film having a positive or negative retardation value" at column 13, line 63 to column 14, line 17 of the prior art, the "film having a positive retardation value" is defined by a film in which the film stretching direction provides a slow axis (the maximum refractive index), and the "film having a negative retardation value" is defined by a film in which a direction orthogonal to the film stretching direction provides a slow axis (the minimum refractive index), as described at column 13, line 67 to column 14, line 3 and at column 14, lines 8 10. On the other hand, the retardation layer having positive (or negative) refractive index anisotropy in the present invention refers to a layer in which, as compared with an object with its refractive index being isotropic in every direction, i.e., $N_x = N_y = N_z$, a specific direction refractive index N_x is very high such that $N_x > N_y = N_z$ (or a specific direction refractive index N_z is very small such that $N_x = N_y > N_z$, as can be seen from Figs. 7(a) and 7(b) and their explanation of the present application. Both are different concepts. Thus, Uchiyama would appear to fail to definitely describe that, as contemplated in the present invention, the inverse chromatic dispersion type A

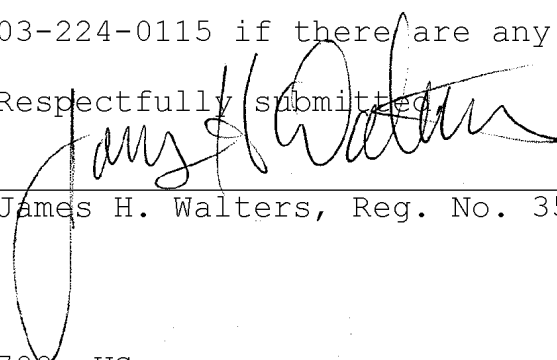
plate and the normal chromatic dispersion type negative C plate are laminated and integrated together.

The applicant's construction of placement of the positive and negative plates is not taught or suggested because, what is recited in claim 1 related to the location of A plate and C plate at this position of a VA type LCD is not suggested by any prior art. Further, what is recited in claim 1 as amended is not clearly or specifically set forth in the prior art. It is accordingly submitted that claim 1 is allowable.

The remaining claims are amended to refer to the liquid crystal display of claim 1 as amended, and are also submitted to be allowable. Claim 11 has been canceled.

In light of the above noted remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,


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